

# PRESS INSTITUTE CITES MISTRUST

## Terms Drop in Confidence in News Media Disquieting

Special to The New York Times

GENEVA, Dec. 31—The International Press Institute reported today that distrust of the news media had been growing in the United States.

The American media, it said, may find it more difficult to regain the public's trust than to overcome the technical and economic problems that beset it.

The press of other countries also has a "communication problem," the institute said in its annual review of press freedom, but it emphasized that of the United States. The institute is a private organization of newspaper editors of 57 countries, with headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland.

A disquieting development noted in the United States, it said, is the feeling that news media "incite the violence they report" by being present during riots and reporting on them.

The organization commented that this feeling has developed "despite disproof of any direct connection" between the riots and the reporting of them.

### Instigators and Targets

The survey, prepared by the institute's acting director, Anthony Brock, a Briton, said that in West Germany, France, Britain, Brazil and other countries the information media had also found itself "both blamed as the real instigators of violence and sometimes, in clashes with police, the object of it."

The media's "loss of acceptance" in the United States was said to have been illustrated strikingly by the riots during the Democratic party convention in Chicago earlier this year in which 34 newsmen were injured.

"Public opinion polls," the survey said, "found wide support for the police action and little for the newsmen, who, it was apparently felt, were as much to blame for what happened as those who struck them."

It was felt in nearly all the countries where reporters were covering riots that they "could expect no protection during violence since they were partly

responsible for it," the survey continued.

The Institute also commented on the press in Czechoslovakia, saying that journalists the world over were "indebted to their Czechoslovak colleagues for having so convincingly demonstrated the reality of the cause of the free press" during the last year.

### Greek Case Mentioned

During the period of liberalization before the invasion, the Czechoslovak mass media "were at the forefront, encouraging, criticizing, urging and even leading," the institute said. After the invasion, the underground press became the main force of resistance, it went on, and now the press is "bravely maintaining the people's right to decide their own destiny."

The institute found that Greece continued to be the "saddest case among European countries with a free-press tradition." But "arrests have continued, as has the expulsion, harassment and even mishandling of correspondents whose reporting did not suit the ruling junta."

In Latin America the blackest spots for press freedom remain Haiti and Cuba, the institute said.

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Press Institute